

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC, 20554

In the Matter of )  
Creation of a Low ) MB Docket No. 99-25  
Power Radio )  
Service )

My name is Bruce Hayden and I strongly support any actions the Federal Communications Commission can take to expand and support the Low Power FM radio service.

I also have a few comments to underscore some problems I see with the present rules and regulations regarding LPFM..

Low Power stations such as ours, KFOK-LPFM in Georgetown, CA, are often the only local stations within the community that broadcast for and to the community. They should be given Primary status for their protection.

Many things change over a very short period of time. Owners of the buildings that house these stations may change forcing the move of studios and transmitters, these changes may mean major modifications. These modifications should be allowed for LPFM without waiting for a open window.

Our experience with the present way power is allocated has created a real problem for our station. Because we are a mountain community with steep canyons on three of out four sides we were only given 2 watts of power. We have to overcome the heavy trees growth, the hills and valleys of the local terrain. Thus it is not uncommon for those in the community living only a quarter of a mile away not to receive the station. The idea that we can have an audience 2 ½ miles from the transmitter is in our case a joke as there are few that can receive us within 1 mile of the transmitter let alone 2.

We are the only local station within our rural county let alone

community. We need more than the power we were granted by the calculations of our HAAT to reach the community we are trying to serve. The only way we could do this is to have us submit engineering studies to justify even the 100 watts we wish we could have. That is not possible under the current FCC regulations for LPFM's. Even though we have tremendous community support now, we are concerned how long we can survive with our not being able to reach but a fraction of the community which we serve. We are struggling because of this restriction.

We are a true Community station that is all volunteered staffed with local residence. We strive to meet the needs of our community. We are what the idea of what LPFM is supposed to be. Truly a community treasure and resource. However with the rules as they are now presently written, local community stations such as ours may not survive unless we can meet even the minimum needs of the community. The present FCC regulations for LPFM guarantees that stations such as ours will more than likely fail as we cannot cover near what our contour maps suggest we can. We need realistic rules which can address the problems of rural mountain station such as are face.

Our nearest station within the 3rd adjacent channel is well over 50 miles from us. From the north and to the south neither of the stations who share our frequency can be heard within 30 miles of our community. Each is over 70 miles away. We need the ability to submit these facts to the FCC and the present regulations do not allow us to do so.

The current LPFM rules have a provision that the Board of Directors cannot change more than 50% from an initial application unless the change is reported. This can create problems for non-profits that have term limits for board members or where the board does have a turn over in a short time for various reasons. There needs to be more flexibility given to these boards regarding personnel changes.

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I have written here of what we face with our small community station. In addition Prometheus Radio Project has submitted several suggestions to improve the rules for LPFM. I have reviewed them and found they are well thought out and necessary. I and all those who I have brought to their attention these suggestions support the changes recommended